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## Michigan Wildlife Services

Forestry/Wildlife and Wetlands Consulting

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Senator Tom Casperson

Subject: BSA's and Senate Bill 1276

September 19, 2012

Dear Senator Casperson:

I have been a land manager in the Upper Peninsula since 1977 and have worked for both the DNR and private landowners during this 35 year period. In that 35 years I have watched the forest products industry go on a long steady decline. Pulp mills in Michigan and Wisconsin have closed and local U.P. sawmills have folded including a sawmill here in Manistique last year. As a typical example, the sawmill in Manistique employed about 20 workers at one time. Prior to that a dimension wood plant here in Manistique folded with another loss of 12-15 jobs.

In the 35 years I have been a land manager the volume of growing stock in the U.P. has increased substantially however the availability of wood to cut has declined. Both the DNR and the Forest Service have cut back on the wood they are cutting even while the allowable cut has increased. This has put considerable pressure on the forest products industry and is a direct contributor to the failure of some of these mills. The loss of jobs for the U.P. and Michigan is intolerable, particularly in these difficult economic times. My son is in the Navy, currently in the Persian Gulf and my youngest daughter moved downstate for employment. Neither could find meaningful employment in the U.P. This is disgraceful when the U.P. has substantial renewable natural resources that can be developed to provide good paying jobs.

I have watched with dismay as the mills have folded and jobs disappeared because the forest products industry is in decline. The DNR continues to reduce wood availability on state forest land and then proposes BSA's. BSA's are another type of natural area under a different name. All BSA's will accomplish is to take productive land out of production with absolutely no environmental benefit. I am strongly opposed to the DNR establishing BSA's and fully support SB 1276 to stop this needless process of killing jobs in the U.P.

Sincerely,



Gregg D. Stoll

*Gregg D. Stoll*

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*Combining tradition and technology to meet the needs of people and resources*  
**Over 35 years experience**